

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method in a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag device for minimizing unintended re-negotiation of the tag device wherein the tag includes a confirmed read flag indicating whether the tag has been previously read, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a symbol from a reader when an operating state of the tag is a first state;

(b) if the received symbol has a first logical value, transitioning the operating state to a second state; and

(c) if the received symbol has a second logical value, performing the following steps:

(1) evaluating a confirmed read flag,

(2) if the confirmed read flag indicates the tag has been previously read, transitioning the operating state to a dormant state, and

(3) if the confirmed read flag indicates that the tag has not been previously read, transitioning the operating state to the second state ,

wherein the confirmed read flag retains its value upon removal from and re-entry into the field of interrogation.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

(d) if the received symbol has a third logical value, performing the steps of:

(1) clearing the value of the confirmed read flag, and

(2) transitioning the operating state to the second state.

3. (original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

if the received symbol has a fourth logical value, transitioning the operating state to a third state.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
negotiating a complete tag identification number with the reader when the operating state is a fourth state;
transitioning to a fifth state when the complete tag identification has been negotiated;
receiving a symbol from the reader when the operating state is the fifth ~~fourth~~ state; and
if the symbol has the first logical value, setting the confirmed read flag to indicate that the tag has been read; and
transitioning the operating state to the dormant state.
5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the first logical value is a “0” symbol.
6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the second logical value is a “1” symbol.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the first logical value is a “0” symbol, the second logical value is a “1” symbol, and the fourth ~~third~~ logical value is a “NULL” symbol.
8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first state is a calibration state.
9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the second state is a global mode set state.
10. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the third state is a tree start state.
11. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the fourth state is a tree traversal state.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A method in a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag for minimizing unintended re-negotiation of the tag, wherein the tag includes a confirmed read flag indicating whether the tag has been previously read, comprising the steps of:

(a) negotiating a complete tag identification number with a a ~~[[the]]~~ reader when an ~~[[the]]~~ operating state is a tree traversal state;

(b) receiving a symbol from the reader;

(c) if the symbol has a ~~[[the]]~~ first logical value, setting the confirmed read flag to indicate that the tag has been read and transitioning the operating state to a dormant state; and

(d) ~~transitioning the operating state to the dormant state~~ if the symbol has a second logical value, transitioning to a command state,

wherein the confirmed read flag retains its value upon removal from and re-entry into the field of interrogation.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising the steps of:
receiving a symbol from a reader when an operating state of the tag is a calibration state;

if the received symbol has a first logical value, transitioning the operating state to a global mode set state;

if the received symbol has a second logical value, evaluating a confirmed read flag;

if the confirmed read flag indicates the tag has been previously read, transitioning the operating state to ~~[[a]]~~ the dormant state; and

if the confirmed read flag indicates that the tag has not been previously read, transitioning the operating state to the global mode set state.

15. (original) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of:
if the received symbol has a third logical value, transitioning the operating state to a tree start state.

16. (currently amended) A radio frequency identification (RFID) tag, comprising:
means for storing a confirmed read flag that indicates whether the tag has been recently read, wherein the confirmed read flag retains its value upon removal from and re-entry into the field of interrogation;

means for receiving a symbol from a reader and responding to the an
~~interrogation by a reader~~, including

means for evaluating the value of the confirmed read flag ~~upon receipt of a first logical~~ when the received symbol has a first logical value from a reader when and an operating state is a first state; and

means for transmitting data to the reader.

17. (currently amended) The RFID tag of claim 16 further comprising:
means for resetting the confirmed read flag in response to a symbol received from the reader when the RFID tag is in the ~~[[a]]~~ first operating state.

18. (original) The RFID tag of claim 17 wherein the first operating state is a calibration state.

19. (currently amended) The RFID tag of claim 16 wherein the means for storing loses the ~~[[its]]~~ stored value after a predetermined length of time.

20. (original) The RFID tag of claim 19 wherein the means for storing comprises a capacitor.

21. (original) The RFID tag of claim 20 wherein the means for storing comprises a digital storage device.

22. (currently amended) A method in a radio frequency identification (RFID) reader for minimizing unintended re-negotiation of tags in a population of tags, comprising the steps of:

(a) determining whether an interrogation of all tags in the population of tags is required or whether an interrogation of only unread tags is required;

(b) if it is determined in step (a) that all tags in the population of tags are to be interrogated, transmitting a first symbol to the population of tags wherein the first symbol causes all tags in the population to transition to a first state; and

(c) if it is determined in step (a) that only unread tags are to be interrogated, transmitting a second symbol to the population of tags wherein the second symbol causes the tags to evaluate their confirmed read flags, to transition to a dormant state if the confirmed read flag indicates the tag has been read, and to transition to the first state if the confirmed read flag indicates the tag has not been read,

wherein the confirmed read flag retains its value upon removal from and re-entry into the field of interrogation.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 22 further comprising the steps of:
negotiating a complete identification number with a ~~first~~ tag in the population of tags;

~~transmitting at least one symbol to cause the first tag to enter a first operating state; and~~

transmitting at least one symbol to cause the first tag to set the ~~the~~ ~~[[a]]~~ confirmed read flag and enter the dormant state.